



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **FORMER PHOENIX LETTER CARRIER SENTENCED TO PROBATION FOR STEALING CREDIT AND DEBIT CARDS FROM HER ROUTE**

PHOENIX – Michelle Lynn O'Connor, 39, of Phoenix, was sentenced here today to three years probation, and ordered to pay \$2,215 in restitution and to perform 100 hours of community service, by U.S. District Judge Earl H. Carroll. On October 10, 2006, O'Connor pleaded guilty to one felony count of Theft of Mail Matter by a Postal Service Employee.

In the course of her guilty plea, O'Connor admitted she had been a mail carrier and worked out of the Phoenix Post Office's Washington Station for approximately eight years prior to December 1, 2005. During the period of June 29, 2005 through December 1, 2005, O'Connor stole two Bank One Visa credit cards and one Bank of America Visa debit card. During the period of September 11, 2005 through November 5, 2005, O'Connor used one of the stolen Visa credit cards on multiple occasions to buy groceries and related items from three Fry's Grocery Stores in Phoenix. On several occasions, O'Connor drove to the stores in her official Postal Service vehicle and made the purchases while dressed in her letter carrier's uniform. On December 1, 2005, a Postal Inspector sought to interview O'Connor at a Postal facility regarding her conduct at the grocery stores. During the interview, O'Connor was permitted to use the restroom where she hid stolen debit and credit cards in order to avoid their seizure. The cards were later found by fellow Postal Service employees and turned over to the inspector. O'Connor resigned from the Postal Service after these incidents.

At sentencing, the government noted that O'Connor had abused her position of trust as a letter carrier by stealing from her route and then using a stolen credit card to make purchases while in uniform. Before the court, O'Connor accepted responsibility for stealing the three cards and advised Judge Carroll she had no excuse for her conduct and there was no one to blame but herself.

O'Connor was on pretrial release pending sentencing and will remain out of custody while serving her three year term of probation.

The investigation in this case was conducted by the United States Postal Inspection Service. The prosecution is being handled by Frederick A. Battista, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix.

CASE NUMBER: CR-06-594-PHX-EHC  
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